



February 2014

Volume 10, Issue 2

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From the Editor

Brrrrrrrrrr, it was 15 above zero this morning when I started my daily rounds. I guess we were blessed with a fairly mild day last weekend at the Winter Field Day. Our official temperature for the FYBO contest was a balmy 39. See the report and photos beginning on Page 7. Thanks to Randy for additional photos and the event recap.

And a great event it was. We won't know for awhile how well we placed in the FYBO contest, but we generated a respectable score. Many folks contributed to the Field Day, and on behalf of my co-facilitators Bob K7MXE and Randy WB4SPB, I'd like to thank each of you who contributed in so many ways, whether operating, plying us with refreshments, loaning or lugging equipment, setting up and cleaning up afterwards, it was all important. And I think we'll see some new faces soon around the clubhouse, as several families with youngsters were fascinated by the Bunny Hunt coordinated by Bob. A special thanks goes to Jack K7DBU for hand-crafting many of the prizes that were awarded. You made lots of smiles happen, Jack.

Remember that Mike and Key Hamfest is coming up on March 8 at the Fairgrounds in Puyallup. Although the club will not have a vendor table this year, we will have an information booth set up on the second floor. Stop by, take a breather, and spend a bit of time promoting our club and amateur radio.

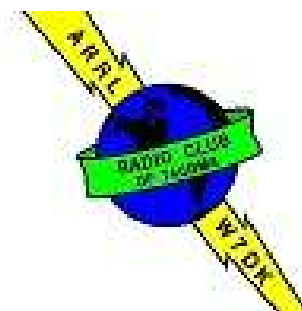
The Fourth Wednesday Workshops continue to be a success, and the January classes will again be presented on February 26 to give those who weren't able to participate in the first sessions a chance to garner the wisdom from the experts.

Last but not least, the club leadership is still looking for a volunteer to take over coordinating programs for the monthly meetings held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Frank AC7JY has ably taken care of this for about 5 years, but he needs a break. And, since we only meet at the library once a month now, the task is not so daunting. C'mon, step right up and take a swing at it.

That's all folks - 73 de Mike W7MWF

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**RCT Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
1 January 2014**

The 1 January 2014 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma.

Officers and board members present:

President	Gary McAdams WG7X
Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Board Member	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Board Member	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board Member	Nick Winter K7MO
Board Member	Mike Elwell W7GHW

There were 10 names on the attendance roster which is attached to the original copy of these minutes

Quorum: Yes

Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the 5 December 2013 Board Meeting as coordinated was made, seconded and passed.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: Bill Rohrer W7IJ lost his long battle with cancer and became a silent key on December 22nd. Memorial Services at the Tacoma Scottish Rite facility are planned for later this month. Bill was a long time member, outstanding Ham, and held membership number 381.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Bank Statements
Utility and Phone Bills
Newsletters
QEX Journal
Electric Radio
Memberships
QSL cards
Crawford Mountain DNR Lease invoice
Electric Radio renewal
Annual State Corporation Report due

TREASURER'S REPORT: No Report

A motion was made, seconded and passed to authorize the Treasurer's payment of routine and normal bills for the 2014 calendar year.

Nick K7MO recommended a donation to Bates Technical College in the amount of \$ 120.00.

A motion was made seconded and passed to authorize a donation to Bates Technical College in the amount of \$ 120.00.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership:

Current membership stands at 310

Training: Next Technician Class January 11/12

Information Technology:– Randy Myers WB4SBP

A flat panel computer monitor was donated and will be used with the new HF workstation under development. A computer capable of running the Windows 7 operating system is needed together with a copy of the Windows 7 Operating System.

Randy WB4SPB noted that Microsoft is ending its support for the XP operating system this year, and the Club has several computers using the XP OS.

HF and Repeater Operations:

HF Operations:

Bruce W7EP reports a donation of several lengths of 213 Coax which can be used for patch panel cables. Connectors are still needed

A donated Kenwood TS 450S is awaiting installation in the Simmons Room

Repeater Operations:

Tim W7TMW and Nick K7MO have been working on the Bates 145.21 repeater, and removed it for work at K7MO's bench.

Nick K7MO presented an invoice for the previously approved 145.21 repeater parts.

RCT Repeater Status:

W7DK 145.21 Repeater, Bates Channel 28: Status out of service temporarily; Awaiting maintenance

W7DK 147.28 Repeater Clubhouse: Status – Operational

W7DK 147.38 Repeater Crawford Mountain: Status – Operational, awaiting installation of the 440 MHz control unit

W7DK 440.625 Repeater Clubhouse Status – Operational

IRLP (147.28 Repeater) Operational**Repeater Committee Appointment:**

The President appointed the following to the RCT Repeater Committee

Tim White W7TMW Chair

Nick Winter K7MO

Rich Patrick KR7W

Stephen Morton AD7AB

Stan Nelson K7DKK

Chuck Kemmer AC7QN

Museum:

Randy WB4SPB reports that the W7OS station has new QSL cards which will be used to respond to contacts from 2012 and 2013 Straight Key night QSOs. Most of the funds were provided by the Museum donation jar, but about 20 stamps and envelopes will be needed to mail the QSL cards owed. The Secretary offered to provide stamps and envelopes from the Club's supply.

Facilities Management: Bruce Hanson WE7P

Bruce reports replacing the problematic front door keypad lock. It uses the same combination as the previous keypad, except that to lock the door, just push the lock symbol on the keypad. Bruce submitted an invoice for the cost of the new front door keypad/lock.

Bruce mentioned the facilities need to repair/replace the upstairs carpet, paint and install gutters on the garage, and work on the Clubhouse eaves. He recommends we cut the bunched up rug, determine what flooring is under the rug, and temporarily patch the cut.

Nick K7MO reported the Mercury Vapor area light is out and should be replaced.

Property Management:

There was no official report; however it appears that the Property Manager has elected not to register a table at the March Mike and Key Hamfest, mostly because we have very little excess property to offer for sale.

Recent Tower and Antenna Donation offer.

No Report

Library Report: Club Librarian Doug Oakman AD7AV has circulated the Library Planning Report for this year to the Board.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Library Report as distributed.

A copy of the Library Report is attached to the original copy of these minutes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**Workshop Project**

Work continues resolving the large list of topics the membership has asked to be considered for the workshops

When the list is resolved, a survey will be included in the January 2014 membership renewal mailing seeking additional feedback and verification of the topic list

At the same time, work will begin on coordinating presenters with topics and developing a workshop schedule.

For the January 22nd Workshop session,

Gary WG7X offered to provide an orientation to the Club's HF Station.

A presentation will also be prepared for an orientation to Amateur Radio Repeaters, including repeater use, net operations and etiquette.

Mike W7GHW recommended the club set up a telephone tree operation to contact members and invite them to "Elmer" sessions. There followed a discussion of the practicality of such a program, and the current effort to respond to club member request through the Workshop Program.

BARK Newsletter Mailings:

John Clarke AC7WW who manages the BARK mailing process has suggested the Club reconsider ending the BARK mailings. The cost of mailing continues to rise and the number of members has dwindled to 18.

The Secretary will explore ways to minimize the impact on members, possibly by emailing the BARK to those with valid email addresses, and preparation of several printed copies of the monthly BARK to be held at the clubhouse for members and visitors.

The sense of the Board was that the program will be ended due to cost and the small number of members affected.

There are members still concerned about not getting a mailed copy of the Club newsletter.

There was a discussion about the cost of mailing the BARK exceeding the average member dues, and the volunteer effort needed to print and mail the BARK to the 18 members still asking for a mailed copy.

In order to provide an alternative to mailing the BARK, the sense of the Board was to provide printed copies for the General Membership Meeting Receptionist and Clubhouse Open House Hosts for those who cannot secure a copy as a download from the Club's website posting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Parliamentarian:

The President appointed Peter Baker AD7EU as the Club's Parliamentarian.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Field Day Planning

President Gary WG7X raised the question of planning for this year's Field Day. There followed a discussion about the options and choices, to the field or use the

Clubhouse again. The question will be put to the membership at regular meetings to gain feedback.

Hamfest Planning

President Gary WG7X raised the question of planning for a Hamfest this year. There followed a discussion which essentially came to the conclusion that if a team cannot be formed and an acceptable location secured, the Club would not be able to do a Hamfest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Straight Key Night

Randy WB4SBP reported that around 40 more or less attended Straight Key night, and enjoyed the evening.

The Club served 6 pizzas at a cost of \$101.00, part of which was offset by donation jar contributions in the amount of \$25.00. Randy will present a bill for the remaining \$ 75.00 authorized at the last Board meeting.

FYBO Freeze Your Buns Off

Mike W7MWF announced that plans were underway with Randy WB4SPB to do this February's FYBO.

ADJOURNED

The RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA needs your donations...

DONATIONS PLAY A BIG PART IN FUNDING THE OPERATION OF RCT. IF YOU HAVE UNWANTED OR UN-NEEDED AMATEUR RADIO OR RELATED EQUIPMENT. PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING IT TO THE CLUB

If you have something to donate Contact Frank Palmer AC7JY, Property Manager

HELP WANTED

After brewing over 50 pots of coffee for the club meetings at the Library building, Mike W7XTZ would like to pass the responsibility to another member. Since meetings now occur only once per month, it isn't too big of a chore and would begin with the February 12th general meeting..
If interested, please contact Mike at email w7xtz@w7dk.org

W7DK

Proudly celebrating 97
years of service to
Amateur Radio in the
Pacific Northwest



GENERAL MEETING NOTES**8 January 2014**

The 8 January 2014 General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building at Waller Road and 112th Street. .

President Gary McAdams WG7X called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

Preseident	Gary McAdams WG7X
Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Treasurer	Bob Purdom AD7LJ
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Mike Finnie W7MWF

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 26 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by Gary McAdams WG7X

INTRODUCTIONS: Guest welcoming and self-introductions were completed.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: Bill Rohrer W7IJ became a silent Key on 22 December. A memorial service will be held at the Tacoma Scottish Rite on January 19th at 2 pm

Correspondence:

Newsletters
Utility Bills
Salmon Run Pledges
QSL Cards
Bank Statements
Insurance Invoice

The Field Day Pig was circulated to collect donations for Field Day operations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Training: The next Technician's class will be held on January 11/12

PROGRAM: Building a multi band HF antenna

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bates Technical 145.21 Repeater: Out of service for maintenance

FYBO: Mike Finnie W7MWF announced plans for this year's Freeze Your Buns Off Winter Hamfest. This year's event will be held again at Point Defiance Owen's Beach on 3 February beginning around 10 am. Bob Heselberg K7MXE is setting up a hidden transmitter hunt as part of the winter field exercise. There will be hidden transmitters close enough to walk to, and others requiring driving.

RCT Membership Meetings:

To better serve the members, the Club has revised the second monthly membership (fourth Wednesday) meeting to Wednesday evening workshops at the Clubhouse. On January 22nd Gary McAdams WG7X will be presenting an orientation to the Club's HF System, while Stan Nelson K7DKK will present an overview of Repeaters, what are they and why do we care.

John Wickcliffe KG7FYX offered to take on the job of Workshop Coordinator

RCT Christmas Party and Awards Ceremonies

This year's Annual Christmas party and awards banquet was held on Sunday, 15 December from 1 pm to 3 pm at the Tacoma Area Citizens with Disabilities (TACID) facility, on 19th Avenue near the Tacoma Community College campus.

Plenty of food, socializing, and awards recognizing the many many volunteer contributions of time and talent to the Radio Club of Tacoma this past year.

The HRO gift certificate prize was captured by Mike Buettner K7STO, and Paul Matney took home a new Baofeng HT.

Randy Myers WB4SBP received the Doc Spike Inspirational Award for his dedicated and broad range of service to the Club over the past year.

Straight Key Night: Randy Myers WB4SBP reported on SK Night held at the Clubhouse on 31 December. A crowd of over 40 attended this annual event, many pounding straight key brass on some homebrew and vintage boat anchors, while most enjoyed the socializing, pizza and deserts. A special thanks to Rich KR7W, Randy WB7SBP, XYL Sooz, Mike W7MWF, Joe K7ZG, Bruce WE7P and many others, especially those who actually operated, for another great RCT event...There were 11 Operators who managed 26 contacts with 12 states

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Mike and Key: An Information Table has been reserved, and we need a coordinator to set the table up

and man the table during the Hamfest. Contact the Secretary KD4VOM

Field Day: requires advance planning, and this year, Mike Elwell W7GHW has stepped up to manage Field Day. He'll need your full cooperation and skills to make it happen.

Picnic: Here as well the Club is seeking a team to prepare and manage this year's Kirkreit Picnic

SHOW AND TELL: None Reported

TUNING AND TRAFFIC: None

DOOR PRIZES: Greta Hewlett KF7KSW took home the soldering iron door prize

RAFFLE PRIZE: Casey Hicks WY7V won the Headphones raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm

**FEBRUARY 26TH WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS - 7PM @ THE RCT CLUBHOUSE
FEATURING A REPRISE OF THE JANUARY WORKSHOPS
INTRO TO THE RCT HF FACILITY - GARY WG7X
REPEATER BASICS—STAN K7DKK**



ANNOUNCING THE 33rd ANNUAL MIKE AND KEY ARC ELECTRONICS SHOW & FLEAMARKET



**MARCH 8, 2014 @ 9AM
PAVILION EXHIBITION HALL**



WASHINGTON STATE FAIR GROUNDS

110 9th Avenue SW, Puyallup, WA 98371

ADMISSION - \$8 (UNDER 16, FREE w/ADULT)

TWO FLOORS WITH 44,000 Sq FEET OF EXHIBITION AREA (>300 tables)

TALKIN 146.82/22 (PL 103.5)

RADIO GEAR * COMPUTERS * CLUB & INFO TABLES * PARTS

SNACK BAR * FREE PARKING * CONSIGNMENT AREA

OVERNIGHT SC/RV Camping Available * LICENSE EXAMS

2014 Winter Field Day

February 1, 2014
Point Defiance Park



Score = 23 QSO Pts X 17 SPC = 391 X 4 (Temp Multiplier for 39F lowest temp) = 1564 X 4 (Field Operations Multiplier) = 6256 + 100 X 1 NQ7RP bonus points

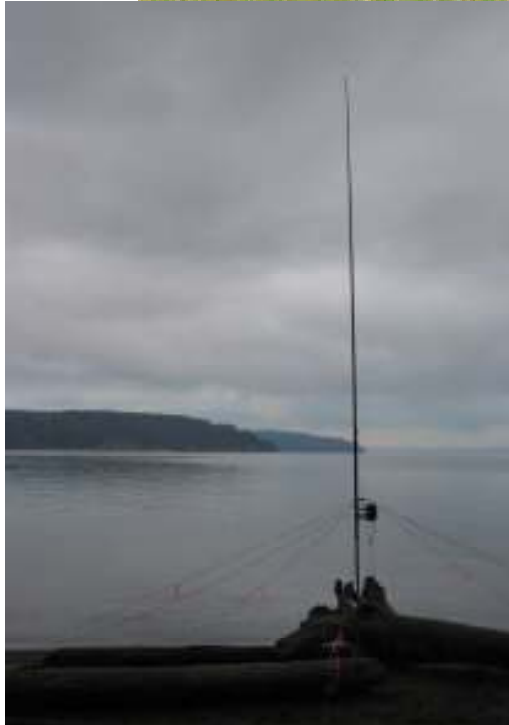
6356 Total points

As in many past years, the Radio Club of Tacoma (W7DK) deployed in and around the picnic shelter at Owens Beach on the Puget Sound in Tacoma's Point Defiance Park. Three antennas were erected: a 40M inverted vee at 24 feet, a 41-foot all-band vertical, and our always-successful 20M "salt-water vertical" right at the high-tide waterline. The inverted vee and the all-band vertical were driven by Elecraft KX3s, and the SWV was driven by a YouKits HB1B. Power was provided by batteries.

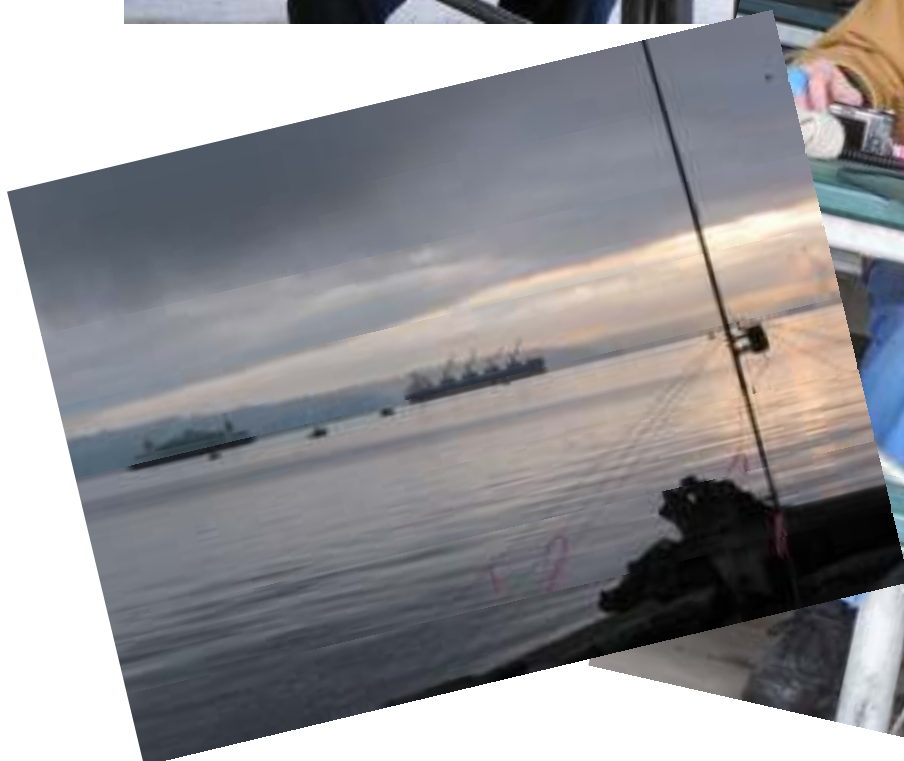
The event was combined with a hidden transmitter hunt: four 2-meter "bunnies" were concealed within a mile-or-so radius and stalked by tape-measure-yagi-wielding hunters wearing orange traffic vests. Of course, in this public location, we attracted some attention, and in fact many passers-by were inspired by the 2M yagis, the HF antennas and the sound of CW to ask what the heck was going on. The resulting encounters led to interesting conversations about ham radio (e.g. "Man, I didn't know this even existed!").

20 club members and visitors managed to notice and sign our guestbook, but quite a few others stopped by to observe and chat. We de-camped at 1500 local time after 6 ½ hours of operation. The event coordinators appreciate all of the efforts by the operators, the logistics and construction crews, bunny-hunters, equipment loaners, soup and snack caterers, and everyone else whose attendance and participation made it a memorable event.









SAFETY IN THE SHACK

Hidden hazards can cause serious damages

Bob K7MXE recently sent me a link to a safety video on YouTube that pointed out an often-overlooked hazard that is likely found in not only our shacks, but our homes.

See the video here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSJH21WmALc>

At first blush, it seemed a bit incredible to me that such a simple situation could be so deadly. However, a cursory browsing of various websites does not debunk this advice. Instead, it confirms the dangers with 'worn out' batteries, particularly those of the 9 volt type.

I decided to do a little review of my own habits, that is, tossing scraps in a little plastic junk-bucket that sits on my workbench.

Lo and behold, an unwanted spontaneous event waiting to happen.

First, here's my little scrap bucket, about 4 inches tall.



It certainly looks pretty harmless. Here's an overhead shot to give you an idea what



Left, spread out so you can see the assortment of scraps - batteries, old components, bits of wire, slugs from junction boxes, and globs of solder.

Watch the video, then take a few minutes to look around you shack, and in the junk drawer in the kitchen or desk. Perhaps the odds of a battery-ignited fire are slimmer than winning the lottery, but you know, every so often there is a winner. A 2 inch piece of electrical tape across the terminals might save your house

MORE Ham Sats to be Deployed!

Several amateur radio CubeSats will be deployed from the International Space Station on Thursday, February 6, 2014.

On Thursday, January 9 at 1807 UT an Antares rocket launched the Cygnus freighter carrying a cargo of CubeSats to the International Space Station. Since then the CubeSats have been stored on the ISS awaiting deployment using the Japanese Kibo Robot Arm.

The first of these CubeSats LituanicaSat-1, LitSat-1, ArduSat-2, UAPSat-1 and the 915 MHz SkyCube should be deployed on Thursday, February 6, 2014. They will be followed later in the month by twenty eight commercial 3U CubeSats from Planet Labs. LituanicaSat-1 carries a 145/435 MHz FM transponder while LitSat-1 is thought to carry a 435/145 MHz linear transponder for SSB/CW communications.



The IARU coordinated frequencies are listed as:

LituanicaSAT-1

- FM Transponder Uplink 145.950 MHz Downlink 435.180 MHz
- AX25 Uplink 145.850 MHz AX25 Downlink 437.550 MHz
- CW Beacon 437.275 MHz

<https://www.facebook.com/Lituanicasat1>

LitSat-1

- SSB Transponder Uplink 435.180 MHz Downlink 145.950 MHz
- AX25 Uplink 437.550 MHz Downlink 145.850 MHz

<https://www.facebook.com/palydovas>

ArduSat-2

- 9k6 MSK CCSDS data format downlink 437.? MHz

<http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/575960623/ardusat-your-arduino-experiment-in-space>

UAPSAT

- AX.25 Packet Radio uplink 145.980 MHz downlink 437.385 MHz

<http://www.uap.edu.pe/>

Video: Deploying CubeSats from the Space Station

<http://amsat-uk.org/2014/01/31/video-deploying-cubesats-from-the-space-station/>

Details of other amateur radio satellites due to launch this month are at

<http://amsat-uk.org/2014/02/01/japanese-amateur-radio-satellite-depoyments/>

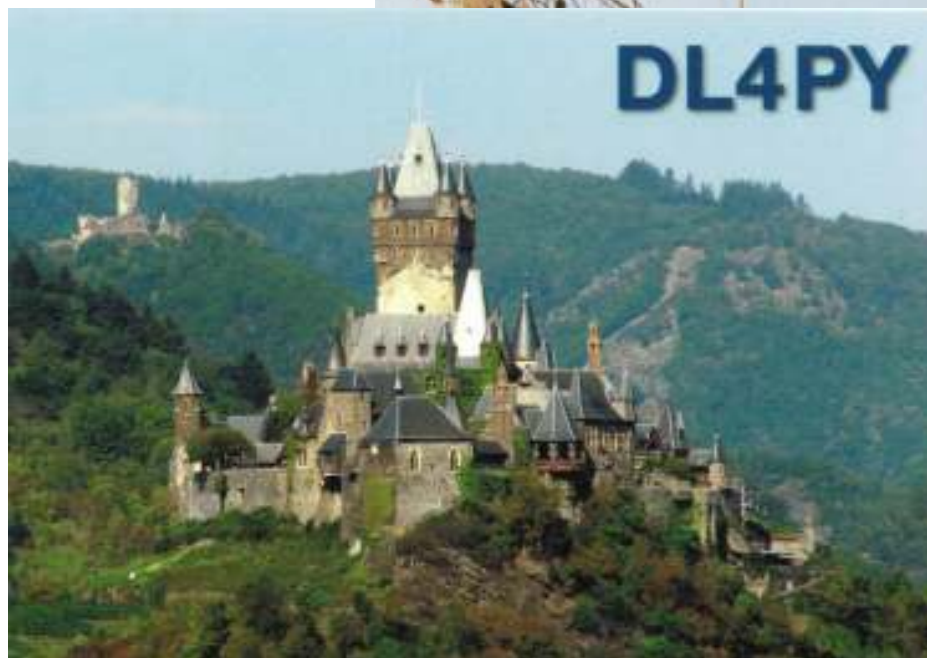


In this issue of The Bark we are once again treated to a pair of QSL cards from the extensive collection of Harry N7DOE. The geographical theme for this month features 2 hams from Germany.

Thanks Harry for your contributions to The Bark and to many other club activities.

All club members are invited and encouraged to contribute cards, photos, stories, opinions, observations, or other tidbits for publication in The Bark. Either email them to me as a jpg file, or bring them by the clubhouse on a Saturday and I'll scan them. For textual contributions, MSWord, PDF, RTF or plain text files are suitable.

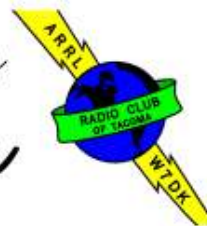
I hope this didn't turn into an all day job for this fearless ham.



Nope, this is not the artist's concept drawing of the new W7DK Club-house.



The Radio Club of Tacoma's
Logger's Bark



The Logger's Bark is the **OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA...** and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.

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Secretary: Larry Watson KD4VOM email to [kd4vom @ w7dk.org](mailto:kd4vom@w7dk.org)

Treasurer: Bob Purdom AD7LJ email to [ad7lj @ w7dk.org](mailto:ad7lj@w7dk.org)

5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

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Nick Winter K7MO email to [k7mo @ w7dk.org](mailto:k7mo@w7dk.org)

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Contributors: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma...

Send articles to: [w7dk-news @ earthlink.net](mailto:w7dk-news@earthlink.net) or Bark, 1506 N Stevens St, Tacoma, WA 98406

The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org. If a condensed paper copy is needed... then let the Printer/Publisher listed above know.

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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$30 per calendar year. \$25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3

Remember - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website w7dk.org. Be sure to enroll as a member to see all the info.

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:



Upcoming RCT Events

Club Meetings: Second Wednesday of the month at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Workshops: Fourth Wednesday of the month at the Clubhouse, 1249 So. Washington St, Tacoma. A variety of training and educational events will be conducted.

Board Meeting: First Wednesday of the month at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .